

Martin Van Buren to Andrew Jackson, September 14, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

VICE-PRESIDENT VAN BUREN TO JACKSON.

Staatborough, N. Y., September 14, 1833.

My dear Sir, Wishing to answer your last by return of mail, I gave it rather a hasty perusal, and did not notice so particularly, as I have since done, your suggestion in regard to my coming to Washington. I shall be gover[n]ed in that matter altogether by your wishes. You know that the game of the opposition is, to relieve the question, as far as they can, from the influence of your well deserved popularity with the people, by attributing the removal of the Deposits to the solicitat[i]ons of myself, and a monied junto in N York, and as it is not your habit to play into the enemies hands you will not I know request me to come down unless there is some adequate inducement for my so doing. With this consideration in view, you have only to suggest the time when you wish me to be down, and I will come forthwith. A letter under cover to Mr. Cambreleng will always reach me in a few day[s]. I shall at all events come down some time in October, to arrange my house: prob[ab]ly about the 20th; If earlier is necessary say and always remember that I think it an honor to share any portion of your repsonsibility in this affair.

Allow me to say a word to you in regard to our friend McLane. He, and I differ, *toto coelo* about the Bank, and I regret to find that upon almost all public questions the bias of our early feelings is apt to lead us in different directions. Still, I entertain the strongest attachment for him, and have been so long in the habit of interceding in his behalf, that I cannot think of giving it up, as long as I have it in my power to serve him, and his. From what passed between us at Washington, I think it possible, that he may, (if Mr. Duane

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resigns) think himself obliged to tender his resignation also, which if accepted would inevitably ruin him. Your friends would be obliged to give him up politically and when stripped of influence his former Federal friends would assuredly visit their past mortifications at his success upon him in the shape of exultations at this fall. I am quite sure that if ever he tenders his resignation he will nevertheless be anxious to remain if he can do so with honor, and if you should say in reply, that you will accept his resignation if he insists upon it but that you confide in him etc. notwithstanding the difference between you upon this point, and that if he could consistently remain in the administration you would be gratified, I think he would be induced to withdraw it. I would not advise you to change your course for any body but it appears to me that you might go thus far consistently with what is due to all parties. I think I cannot be mistaken in believing that he told me explicitly that he did not know Mr. Duane's views in regard to the removal of the Deposits when he was selected. When at Washington I informed you that I had thought of Mr. Tany for the Treasury but had not made the suggestion to you in consequence of its not meeting with Mr. McLane's concurrence. On accidentally since reading a letter which he wrote me upon the subject of Mr. Duane's appointment I find it stated that he had not mentioned my suggestions in regard to Mr. Tany to you in pursuance of my request that he should not do so until I could ascertain whether Mr. Butler would take the office of Attorney Genl. if he should think proper to offer it to him and which he declined, and consequently nothing more was said of the other idea. Although this had escaped me I presume it must be so.

Mr. Irving and myself have been spending a couple of days here, very pleasantly, with our old friend Genl Lewis¹ who desires me to say a word to you in behalf of the Mechanics Bank of New York as one of those to be selected for places of Deposit etc. He says that that institution made him large advances as quarter master during the late war and at a period when the national finances were in the worst condition. Although I do not wish to take any part, unnecessarily, in regard to the selection I feel it my duty to bear testimony to my own knowledge of the patriotic spirit by which that particular institution was influenced at the period referred to and I shall be happy to find that it has been found possible to

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include it in the number—if four are selected there can be no possible difficulty upon the point. The Genl wishes to be cordially remembered to you.

1 Maj.-Gen. Morgan Lewis, ex-governor of New York, quartermaster-general during the War of 1812.

Remember me kindly to all your Household and believe me to be

Very truly yours